

Reading Log #4: [Readings: MOODLE: Naomi Griffiths, "Acadian Identity: The Creation and Re-creation of Community," *Dalhousie Review* 73: 3 (Fall 1993): 325-349; INTERNET SOURCE: visit the CBC website "The Acadians" at: <http://www.cbc.ca/acadian/index.html>]

The Acadians are a very interesting group of immigrants that were established in pre confederation Canada. The Acadians were establishing themselves quite well before the great transatlantic deportation. After getting established the Acadians went through the "Golden Age" where their population thrived. After the "Golden Age" the Acadians were deported. The British was threatened by the Acadians standpoints and dispersed the Acadians. The Acadians have a rich history and many people still identify as Acadian.

The Acadians were a group of immigrants from Europe who settle in the "New World" from the great transatlantic migration. The article on moodle specify talked about Acadians in present day Canada's maritime provinces. "Today there are some 300,000 people living in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island who consider themselves Acadian by heritage and work to hand this legacy on to future generations" (328). The Acadians were composed from two main groups. "The Acadians did Internationally, the colony was a concern of two European imperial systems and its development was shaped by being, at different times, the possession of both England and France" (330). Acadian was unique it was thriving in most aspects including quality of life, culture, political standings and religion. "It was developing a unique set of political traditions which would serve it well until the very eve of the Deportation" (330). "The very gradual arrival of immigrants meant that successive new corners were assimilated into small communities with little difficulty" (331). The Acadians lived a very comfortable life for four generations before the great deportation. The communities well kept the people were well feed and thriving. Those coming to Acadia simplify wanted a better life for them and their children. The Acadians did eventually take an oath for Britain but wanted to remain neutral. "But the Acadians followed their own policy and sought to obtain the right to swear an oath of allegiance to the English which would contain a provision that "they might not be obliged to carry arms" (333).

1713-1755 is known as the "Golden Age" as this was the period that Acadians thrived in before the great deportation. "They were a period of time during which Acadians knew neither epidemics nor war as major scourges. Life was full and abundant" (335). Not only did they avoid disease but children were born without complications, people were living very long life spans, food was abundant, local products were plentiful, and the community was starting to develop culturally. "Culturally the rites of Catholicism not only gave a framework to daily existence but provided a rich heritage for keeping holidays and an introduction to music and poetry (335). In this age Acadia and its people were flourishing, they were thriving and creating their own established group of people. They were becoming more independent. "Finally, during these decades the Acadians were to a very large extent in charge of their own political life" (335).

In the summer of 1755 Acadians were deported by the British as they were still seen as supporting the French. "The good fortune ended abruptly in mid-summer 1755 when at a meeting of the Council of the colony on Monday, 28 July, the decision was taken to "send all the French Inhabitants out of the Province." This signalled the failure of Acadian policy, one which had been founded upon their belief that they were not solely characterized by being French- speaking and Catholic, and therefore inevitably active supporters of France" (335). The Acadians still identified as a neutral party, they truly saw themselves as their own group of people. "Neutrality was, in Acadian eyes, a most reasonable statement to the demands of the warring Empires and I am convinced that the majority of the Acadians did not carry arms for either France or England" (336).

The British became anxious about the Acadians in the 18th century because the British were beginning to take war like measures. “ The American historian, Lawrence Hemy Gipson con- the Acadian deportation a matter of "warlike measures-just as were those involved in the driving of hundreds of Pennsylvania traders from their trading establishments in the Ohio valley in 1753 by the French" (Gipson, *Great War* 264; *British Empire*, vol. VI)” (337). It is also debated that the British simply decided to take action as they saw the neutral stands as a threat. The had also just dealt with another exile a few years earlier. “In tens of English policies, the Deportation has more in common with the measures taken by London after the 1745 Stuart rebellion when thousands of Scottish Highlanders and their families were exiled to New York, the Carolinas and Georgia” (337). I believe that the British were threaten by the Acadians stand of neutrality and wanted to have control over the people, the power, and the land.

The Acadians started as a group of European immigrants simply seeking a better life. Over time from first starting as a French colony then later the Acadians were exiled by the British. “A French presence was finally established in the New World in 1604, when in the early spring, a contingent of explorers, businessmen, and soon-to-be famous figures like Samuel de Champlain, Sieur de Poutrincourt, and Du Pont Gravé, left Le Havre, France, to assert their King's claim to the Acadie” (<https://www.cbc.ca/acadian/timeline.html>). “Pressure from the English was strong. British Governor Charles Lawrence and the Nova Scotia Council decided on July 28, 1755 to deport the Acadians” (<https://www.cbc.ca/acadian/timeline.html>). Although the Acadians were stripped of their home their individuality is still present today. “Acadians have worked to create an identity different from that of France or Quebec. Their culture today is bustling with amazing energy, artistic creativity and joie-de-vivre” (<https://www.cbc.ca/acadian/timeline.html>).

